CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA
JANUARY 19, 2021 - CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

INVOCATION
Councilmember Waterfield gave the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Councilmember Cordero led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Patino called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:
MEMBERS PRESENT:
Mayor Alice Patino, Councilmember Carlos Escobedo, Councilmember Mike Cordero, Councilmember Gloria Soto, and Councilmember Etta Waterfield

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:
City Manager Jason Stilwell, City Attorney Thomas Watson, Principal Civil Engineer David Beas, Director of Finance Mary Harvey, Chief Information Officer Jeffrey Marecic, Chief Human Resources Officer Elena Morelos, Director of Public Works/City Engineer Kevin McCune, Director of Community Development Chuen Ng, Director of Recreation & Parks Alex Posada, Senior Civil Engineer Eric Riddiough, Chief of Police Marc Schneider, Director of Utilities Shad Springer, Deputy Fire Chief Todd Tuggle, and Chief Deputy City Clerk Rhonda White

1 PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Patino presented a proclamation in recognition of the month of January 2021 as Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month and encouraging all residents and businesses to educate themselves on the issue and report suspicious activity.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Written comment regarding Item 3E (the adoption of Ordinance No. 2021-01 regulating sidewalk vendors) was received from Jannet Rios, Kate Adams, and Lisa Swartz opposing the ordinance. Maria Aguilar, Sandra Dickerson, Juana Gomez, and Wilshire Health & Community Services wrote in support of the Ordinance.

Alison Wales thanked the City Council for the presentation of the Proclamation and spoke about the work of the North County Rape Crisis Center, and Human Trafficking Task Force efforts and upcoming events.

Rebecca Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Kate Adams, and Victoria Garcia spoke against passing the Ordinance regulating sidewalk vendors.

Molly Schiff, representing the Chamber of Commerce, spoke in favor of the Ordinance regulating sidewalk vendors and the Resolution supporting safe business operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Victoria Garcia and Ana Precidio spoke about their businesses in Santa Maria and expressed concern about having to close their businesses during the pandemic. Both said they were worried about sidewalk vendors near their businesses who come from other cities.

City Attorney Watson commented that the proposed Ordinance had been vetted against State Law Safe Sidewalk Vending Act findings. He clarified that the Ordinance was not meant to be discriminatory nor target any particular occupation, but rather was a common-sense regulation to make sure vendors in the community were all held to the same accountability.

3 CONSENT CALENDAR
Councilmember Soto requested that Items 3D and 3E (Resolution to Support Safe Business Operations during COVID-19, and Ordinance No. 2021-01 regulating sidewalk vendors, respectively). She expressed concern about passing the Resolution for Safe Business Operations too soon given that positive COVID-19 cases are still on the rise. She commented that while she agrees that sidewalk vendor businesses should be regulated, the proposed Ordinance added more burdens to those trying so hard to make ends meet during the pandemic.

Consent Calendar Items 3A-3K (except 3D and 3E) were approved as presented, including the adoption of Resolution Nos. 2021-03, 2021-05, 2021-06, 2021-07, 2021-08, 2021-09, and 2021-10. The recorded vote appears with each item below.

Consent Calendar Items 3D and 3E were approved by a separate vote including the adoption of Ordinance No. 2021-01 and Resolution No. 2021-04. The recorded vote appears with these items below.

A. Waive the reading in full of all Ordinances and Resolutions. Ordinances on the Consent Agenda will be adopted by the same vote cast at the first meeting, unless City Council indicates otherwise.

Action: Full readings waived.
Moved by Councilmember Waterfield, seconded by Councilmember Soto.
carried. 5-0.

B. Approve the Minutes of the regular City Council meeting of January 5, 2021.

Action: Minutes approved as presented.
Moved by Councilmember Waterfield, seconded by Councilmember Soto.

C. Adopt a Resolution approving an updated City of Santa Maria Salary Schematic.

Action: Salary Schematic approved.
Moved by Councilmember Waterfield, seconded by Councilmember Soto.
Motion carried. Adopted as Resolution No. 2021-03. 5-0.

D. Adopt a Resolution to Support Safe Business Operations during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Action: Resolution supporting safe business operations during COVID-19 adopted.
Moved by Councilmember Waterfield, seconded by Councilmember Cordero.
carried. Adopted 2021-04. 4-1. Noes: Councilmember Soto.

E. Conduct the second reading and adopt Ordinance No. 2021-01 adding Chapter 4-20 to Title 4 of the Santa Maria Municipal Code regulating sidewalk vendors.

Action: Ordinance No. 2021-01 regulating sidewalk vendors adopted.
Moved by Councilmember Waterfield, seconded by Councilmember Cordero.
Soto.

F. Payment of Warrants. Ordered ratified subject to having been certified as being in conformity with the budget and having been approved for payment by the Director of Finance.

Action: Warrants ratified.
Moved by Councilmember Waterfield, seconded by Councilmember Soto.
Motion carried. 5-0.

G. Payment of Payroll. Ordered ratified subject to having been certified by the proper Department Directors, as shown on records on file in the Department of Finance, and having been approved for payment by the Director of Finance.

Action: Payroll ratified.
Moved by Councilmember Waterfield, seconded by Councilmember Soto.
Motion carried. 5-0.

H. Adopt a Resolution approving an agreement with RK&G Construction, Inc., for Bid No. 2021/01, Historic Smith-Enos House Structural Improvements Project.

Action: Agreement with RK&G Construction, Inc., approved for Historic Smith-Enos House Structural Improvements Project.
Moved by Councilmember Waterfield, seconded by Councilmember Soto.
2021-05. 5-0.

I. Adopt a Resolution accepting a parcel (APN 090-341-051) from the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District located at the terminus of North Preisker Lane to provide access to the Tom Urbanski River Levee Trail and the Santa Maria River Natural Area.

Action: Parcel No.090-341-051 accepted from the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District.
Moved by Councilmember Waterfield, seconded by Councilmember Soto.
Motion carried. Adopted -06. 5-0.

J. Adopt Resolutions annexing and authorizing the assessment for the landscape maintenance fees to 1) Halsell/Ash Ave. Tract 6013, Dutch Brothers Coffee, Boone Street Market, and Broadway Coin Laundry located in the Northeast Landscape Maintenance District; 2) Pine at Boone Townhouses, and Oakley Court Apartments located in the Northwest Landscape Maintenance District; and 3) California Truck Centers located in the Southwest Landscape Maintenance District (Streets and Highways Code Section 22500, et seq.).

Action: Landscape Maintenance District assessments approved.
Moved by Councilmember Waterfield, seconded by Councilmember Soto.

respectively, 5-0.

K. Adopt a Resolution entering into a Utility Agreement with the State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) relative to Pavement Preservation Activities on State Route 135 (SR-135).

Action: Agreement with Caltrans approved.
Moved by Councilmember Waterfield, seconded by Councilmember Soto.

4 APPOINTMENTS

A. The City Council considered making appointments to the Landmark Committee, the Measure U Citizens' Oversight Committee, the Planning Commission, and the Recreation & Parks Commission.

Mayor Patino nominated Jim Zemaitis. The City Council ratified the appointment of Edward (Jim) Zemaitis to the Landmark Committee for a term ending in January 2024.

Staff indicated that the Landmark Committee would continue to seek applicants to fill remaining vacancies until the seats are filled.

Measure U Citizens' Oversight Committee
Councilmember Cordero appointed Jack Owen, Councilmember Escobedo appointed Cathie Ortiz, and Mayor Patino appointed Trent Benedetti. The City Council ratified the nominations and the nominees were appointed to the Committee for a four-year term or coterminous with the appointing Councilmember's term ending in January 2024.

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Chief Deputy City Clerk White commented that a late application had been received from Randy Jackson and would be kept on file for one year should a future vacancy occur.

Councilmember Cordero nominated Tom Lopez, Councilmember Escobedo nominated Tim Seifert, and Mayor Patino nominated Robert Dickerson. The City Council ratified the nominations and the nominees were appointed to the Commission for a four-year term or coterminous with the nominating Councilmember's term ending in January 2024.

Recreation and Parks Commission
Chief Deputy City Clerk White indicated that a late application had been received from Kenneth Dahmen and would be held on file for one year should a future vacancy occur.

Councilmember Escobedo nominated James Melena, Councilmember Cordero nominated Ann Batterson, and Mayor Patino nominated Rebecca Carey. The City Council ratified these nominations and appointed the nominees to the Commission for a term of four-years or coterminous with the nominating Councilmember's term ending in January 2024.

5 PUBLIC HEARING

A. **APPEAL - CENTENNIAL GARDENS.** The City Council considered an appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of a Planned Development Permit (PD2020-0006) and adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Centennial Gardens project to construct 160 affordable apartment units on an 8.36-acre site in a PD/R-3 (Planned Development/High-Density Residential) zoning district.

At its November 18, 2020, meeting the Planning Commission voted 5-0 to adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project and approve the Planned Development Permit PD2020-0006.

Community Development Director Ng gave a presentation as detailed in the Council Agenda Report.

Appellant Don Spagnolo spoke against the project on behalf of the residents of Pacific Crest Estates citing concerns for traffic and parking issues, the surrounding wall, and the increased density in the area.

Brian Schwartz, with Urban Planning Concepts, spoke on behalf of the Applicant to reiterate key pieces of the project.

Public Input
Mayor Patino opened the public hearing at 7:30 p.m.

Written Comment was received from the appellant representing residents of Pacific Crest Estates in objection to the proposed project based on building height, traffic issues, perimeter fencing, project density, and vehicle access parking. Joel Paz, Brandon Jimenez, Erika Martinez, and Jorge Martinez also wrote in opposition to the Centennial Gardens project.

SBCAN wrote in support of the project.

Shannon Dickerson, Joe Soto, Bernardo Rodriguez, Lulu Luna, Jorge Martinez, and Joel Aguilera spoke against the proposed Centennial Gardens Project and in favor of the appeal.

Mayor Patino closed the public hearing at 8:03 p.m.

Action: Adopt a Resolution denying the appeal and affirming the Planning Commission's adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration and approval of the Centennial Gardens Apartment Planned Development Permit at the southwest corner of West Battles Road and South Depot Street.
Moved by Councilmember Soto, seconded by Councilmember Escobedo.
Motion carried. Adopted as Resolution No. 2021-11. 3-2. Noes: Councilmember

6 REGULAR BUSINESS

A. The City Council received a presentation of the Santa Maria Active Transportation Plan from Eric Riddiough GHD Consultant, Kendra Ramsey, and considered approving the proposed Plan.

Public input
Written comment was received from Cars Are Basic expressing concern that the plan is not based on a rational concept and is driven by dollars taken from road and repair taxes to deflect on-going failures. David Dennis wrote in support of the plan saying it would lead to less traffic congestion, fewer miles traveled per vehicle, and reduced demand for parking.

There were no requests to speak.

Action: Adopt a Resolution approving the Santa Maria Active Transportation Plan (SMATP).
Moved by Councilmember Escobedo, seconded by Councilmember Waterfield.

REPORT BY CITY MANAGER
City Manager Stilwell reported that the next regular City Council meeting would be February 2, 2021. Items on the agenda would include a Closed Session and a User Fee Concept presentation.

ORAL REPORTS OF COUNCILMEMBERS AND OFFICERS (INCLUDING AB1234 REPORTS)
Councilmembers Escobedo and Waterfield had no reportable AB1234 meetings.

Councilmember Soto commented that the 48th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade is January 22nd. She also mentioned that Santa Maria would be having its Women's March on Saturday, January 23rd.

Councilmember Cordero reported he attended a Suspended Table A Water meeting.

Mayor Patino reported she attended the Santa Maria Key Leaders update on COVID; the US Mayoral Roundtable with the National League of Cities; the County Legislative Briefing; and a speaking engagement with Central Coast Community Energy with which the City is now enrolled for power.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the City Council, Mayor Patino declared the City Council meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m. in memory of former City employee, Herb Soares, who passed away on January 4th.

Approved at a regular meeting on February 2, 2021.

Rhonda M. White, CMC
Chief Deputy City Clerk and ex officio Clerk
of the City Council

ATTEST:

2/8/2021

Rhonda M. White, CMC
Chief Deputy City Clerk

Alice M. Patino
Mayor of the City of Santa Maria